



FRANCIS BARDANOUVE

Dec. 10, 1917 – Mar. 17, 2002

Francis Bardanouve, a third-generation farmer-rancher from the Harlem area, was first elected to the Montana House of Representatives in 1958. He served a total of 18 sessions, 10 as chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee.

Representative Bardanouve overcame a speech impediment to become one of the most thoughtful, fair, and articulate members ever to serve in the Montana House of Representatives. Among his many accomplishments, Bardanouve secured passage of legislation creating the Board of Investments. He championed improved conditions for residents of the state hospital and developmental center. Instrumental in funding a professional staff for the Legislative Council, he also led the effort establishing the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst. When Bardanouve died at age 84, he still served on the Montana State Prison ranch advisory board.

Representative Bardanouve became known as "the Conscience of the Legislature." He constantly reminded his colleagues never to forget where they came from and not to let their positions go to their heads. A humble, compassionate, and dedicated public servant, he was unfailingly committed to doing what was right for Montana.